

QA-562

Dr. George Loutrell Timanus House
Queenstown vicinity, Queen Anne's County

Constructed ca. 1936

Privately owned

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Dr. George Loutrell Timanus House, constructed ca. 1936, stands on the west bank of the Wye River south of Queenstown in Queen Anne's County. The property consists of a main house, garage, shed, water garden, and brick steps, all constructed ca. 1936, as well as a recent pool and dock. The main house is a large brick Colonial Revival residence with a 2-story, 3-bay main block with a hipped roof flanked by 1-story, 3-bay projecting dependencies with flat roofs. The Timanus House occupies a seven-acre lot that slopes down to the Wye River and features mature specimen trees.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Baltimore physician Dr. George Loutrell Timanus constructed his large, Colonial Revival house on the west bank of the Wye River ca. 1936. The house reflects the trend of wealthy non-residents establishing second homes on the Eastern Shore during the 1920s and 1930s. Timanus was a prominent Baltimore physician specializing in abortion. He was tried for performing illegal abortions in 1951 and, abandoned by the colleagues who had referred their patients to him, was convicted and sentenced to four and one-half months. He was also an avid outdoorsman and raised Guernsey cattle on his Queen Anne's County property.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-562

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Dr. George Loutrell Timanus House
other Sportsmans Hall

2. Location

street and number 310 Sportsmans Hall Road not for publication
city, town Queenstown ☒ vicinity
county Queen Anne's

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Kevin G. Quinn and Charlene C. Quinn
street and number 310 Sportsmans Hall Road telephone (410) 267-8811
city, town Queenstown state MD zip code 21658

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Queen Anne's County Circuit Court liber MWM 254 folio 664
city, town Centreville tax map 66 tax parcel 64 tax ID number 05-021111

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	3 0 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	0 0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	0 2 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	2 0 objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	5 2 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

7. Description

Inventory No. QA-562

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Dr. George Loutrell Timanus House, constructed ca. 1936, stands on the west bank of the Wye River south of Queenstown in Queen Anne's County. The property consists of a main house, garage, shed, water garden, and brick steps, all constructed ca. 1936, as well as a recent pool and dock. The main house is a large brick Colonial Revival residence with a 2-story, 3-bay main block with a hipped roof flanked by 1-story, 3-bay projecting dependencies with flat roofs. The Timanus House occupies a seven-acre lot that slopes down to the Wye River and features mature specimen trees.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Dr. George Loutrell Timanus House, constructed ca. 1936, stands on the west bank of the Wye River south of Queenstown in Queen Anne's County. The property consists of a Colonial Revival main house, garage, shed, water garden, and brick steps, all constructed ca. 1936, as well as a recent pool and dock. The property occupies a seven acre landscaped lot on a small point on the Wye River. The house faces south toward the river. The driveway leads to a secondary entrance on the rear (north) façade. The surrounding land has been subdivided, but the long, curving driveway and the mature specimen trees give it a sense of seclusion.

The Dr. George Loutrell Timanus House is a Colonial Revival residence that consists of a 2-story, 3-bay main block flanked by 1-story, 3-bay, projecting dependencies. The house is constructed of Flemish-bond brick. The main block features quoins, a single-course belt course, jack arches over window and door openings, and corbelled interior end chimneys. The dependencies feature pilasters at the corners and drip courses over window and door openings. The main block has a wood-shake hipped roof with a molded, dentilated cornice. The dependencies have flat roofs with molded coping and necking. There is a 2-story pedimented portico on the south elevation of the main block. The portico features paired Corinthian columns, a frieze with bezants, a molded, dentilated cornice, and an oculus in the tympanum. The main entry is in the center bay of the south elevation (river side) and consists of French doors with a molded surround and a segmented pediment with scrolled brackets. French doors are also located on either side of the main entry. A secondary entry in the center bay of the north elevation (driveway side) consists of a paneled door flanked by 4-light sidelights and sheltered by a small portico with square posts and a triangular pediment. The windows on the house are 8/8, 6/9, and 4/4 wood double-hung sash. The second story windows on the south elevation have wrought iron balconets. A semicircular brick patio with a wrought iron rail extends from the main entry on the south elevation. A 1-story wood frame addition covered in wood shingle extends north from the east dependency. A recent 1-story sunroom addition extends east from the east dependency.

A garage that has been converted to a guest house stands directly north of the house. The 1 1/2-story, 5-bay garage has a poured concrete foundation, wood shingle covering the exterior walls, and a wood shake hipped roof with a shallow boxed cornice and a lantern. On the east (river) elevation, the garage has three 6/6 wood windows and two sets of sliding glass doors on the first story and three hipped dormers with recent 1/1 windows on the second. On the west elevation the garage has three 6/6 wood windows on the first story and a large wall dormer flanked by two hipped dormers with recent 1/1 windows on the second. A brick chimney stands at the southwest corner, and a recent 1-story greenhouse extends from the south elevation.

A small storage shed stands north of the garage. The shed has a poured concrete foundation, wood shingle covering the exterior walls, and a wood shake hipped roof with copper flashing and a shallow boxed cornice. There are three wood and glass doors on the south elevation and 6/6 wood windows on the other elevations.

The grounds surrounding the Timanus House feature many mature specimen trees including ginko, elm, and magnolia. A ca. 1936 poured-concrete water garden lies southwest of the house. A ca. 1936 set of four small brick steps leads down the river bank at the location of the original dock. (The current dock lies slightly to the west.) A recent pool occupies the southeast corner of the property where the river curves.

8. Significance

Inventory No. QA-562

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates ca. 1936 (construction) **Architect/Builder** unknown

Construction dates ca. 1936

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Baltimore physician Dr. George Loutrell Timanus constructed his large, Colonial Revival house on the west bank of the Wye River ca. 1936. The house reflects the trend of wealthy non-residents establishing second homes on the Eastern Shore during the 1920s and 1930s. Timanus was a prominent Baltimore physician specializing in abortion. He was tried for performing illegal abortions in 1951 and, abandoned by the colleagues who had referred their patients to him, was convicted and sentenced to four and one-half months. He was also an avid outdoorsman and raised Guernsey cattle on his Queen Anne's County property.

RESOURCE HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

Baltimore physician Dr. George Loutrell Timanus constructed his large, Colonial Revival house on the west bank of the Wye River ca. 1936. Prior to Timanus ownership, the land had been in the John K. Griffin family since 1862. By the 1950s, Timanus had expanded his land holdings to 550 acres on which he raised blooded Guernsey cattle. Subdivision of the land began when Timanus sold the property in 1957, and the house currently stands on a seven-acre parcel.

Dr. George Loutrell Timanus (1892-1981) was born in Baltimore and graduated from Baltimore City College School of the Arts in 1910 and the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 1914. A gynecologist who practiced in downtown Baltimore, he emerged during the Depression as a specialist in abortion. Therapeutic abortion to preserve the health of the mother was legal, and the definition of therapeutic was loosely interpreted. Timanus seems to have practiced fairly openly: he required his patients to have referrals from their primary physicians and was well-known in medical circles.¹ A 1941 publication reported (without naming Timanus' specialty):

... while in the line of his specialty his services are much sought, his colleagues and contemporaries, as well as the laity acknowledging his skill in the field. In his studies he has investigated foreign methods in his particular line, and he holds certificates of attainment, first from the University of Paris . . . and later at the University of Vienna.

Dr. Timanus is recognized as one of the outstanding specialists in this branch of surgical medicine, and he is frequently consulted by other specialists in this line as to theory and method, Dr. Timanus having been the originator or inventor of certain instruments for this branch of surgery to promote better sterilization and greater ease of operating practice. It is but justice to state that the Doctor has an outstanding niche in his branch of surgical medicine in the East.²

In 1950, Timanus's records were seized during a police raid, and he, his staff, and the patients in the office at the time were taken to the local police station for interrogation. Timanus went to trial in 1951. Although he asked physicians who had referred patients to

¹ Reagan, Leslie J. *When Abortion Was a Crime: Women, Medicine, and Law in the United States, 1867-1973*, pp. 158-159.

² Kunmer, Frederick Arnold. *The Free State of Maryland, A History of the State and its People, 1634-1941*. Volume 4, pp. 1434-1435.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of

Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-562

Dr. George Loutrell Timanus House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

him to testify on his behalf, none came forward. In 1951, Timanus was found guilty of illegal abortion and served four and one-half months.³

The Timanus House reflects the trend of wealthy non-residents establishing second homes on the Eastern Shore during the 1920s and 1930s. Robert Brugger documented this trend as follows:

For many years, people of outside wealth had been buying up old estates along the Chesapeake and its Eastern Shore rivers as country homes or hunting retreats. In the summer of 1925, the *Queenstown News* reported Centreville "aroused" at word that Wintora, an old home on Corsica Neck, had gone to the wife of a du Pont and General Motors millionaire; having paid thirty-five thousand dollars for the house and its 655 acres, she planned to make the place "a thoroughly modern country estate." Such purchases formed a pattern in the 1930s, when more than a few Eastern Shore farmers went bankrupt. A New York advertising man bought almost four miles of waterfront property and commuted to Manhattan using a seaplane. Parke Sedley, a St. Louis carburetor magnate, bought Shipping Creek Farm on Kent Island to go with his Colorado ranch. The president of Pittsburgh Steel purchased Marengo on the Miles River in Talbot County, while his counterpart at Steuben Glass became owner of Wye Plantation.⁴

Acquisition by non-residents resulted in a shift in land use from agriculture to recreation. Although some new property owners operated farms as hobbies, they were not dependent on agriculture as a sole source of income. George Loutrell Timanus fits the description of the gentleman farmer and outdoorsman:

Another point of interest ... is that he is master of Sportsmans Hall, and estate of 300 acres in Queen Anne's County. ... Within the past year, 1940, the Doctor has stocked his farm with over 100 head of blooded Guemsey cattle and fully expects to collect some "ribbons" in dairy cattle competition.

His interest in sports has not been shelved by any means. He plays his game of golf, fishes in the Chesapeake and in Florida as the seasons roll around, hunts ducks from his Eastern Shore blind, and goes after quail and partridge in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, and Florida at the proper times. In these latter ventures he uses a specially equipped station wagon to carry his dogs, friends, and equipment.⁵

³ Reagan, Leslie J. *When Abortion Was a Crime: Women, Medicine, and Law in the United States, 1867-1973*, 181, 187-188.

⁴ Brugger, Robert J. *Maryland, A Middle Temperament, 1634-1980*, 521-522.

⁵ Kunmer, Frederick Arnold. *The Free State of Maryland, A History of the State and its People, 1634-1941*. Volume 4, pp. 1434-1435.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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- Brugger, Robert J. Maryland, A Middle Temperament, 1634-1980. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988.
- Kunmer, Frederick Arnold. *The Free State of Maryland, A History of the State and its People, 1631-1941*. Baltimore: The Historical Review Association, 1941.
- Queen Anne's County Circuit Court. Land Records. ww2.mdlandrec.net.
- Reagan, Leslie J. *When Abortion was a Crime: Women, Medicine, and Law in the United States, 1867-1973*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>7 acres</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>142 acres</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Queenstown</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24,000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary for the Dr. George Loutrell Timanus House corresponds to the boundary for Queen Anne's County Tax Map 66, Parcel 64. The boundary encompasses seven acres and includes house, garage, shed, water garden, and steps as well as all land still associated with the house.

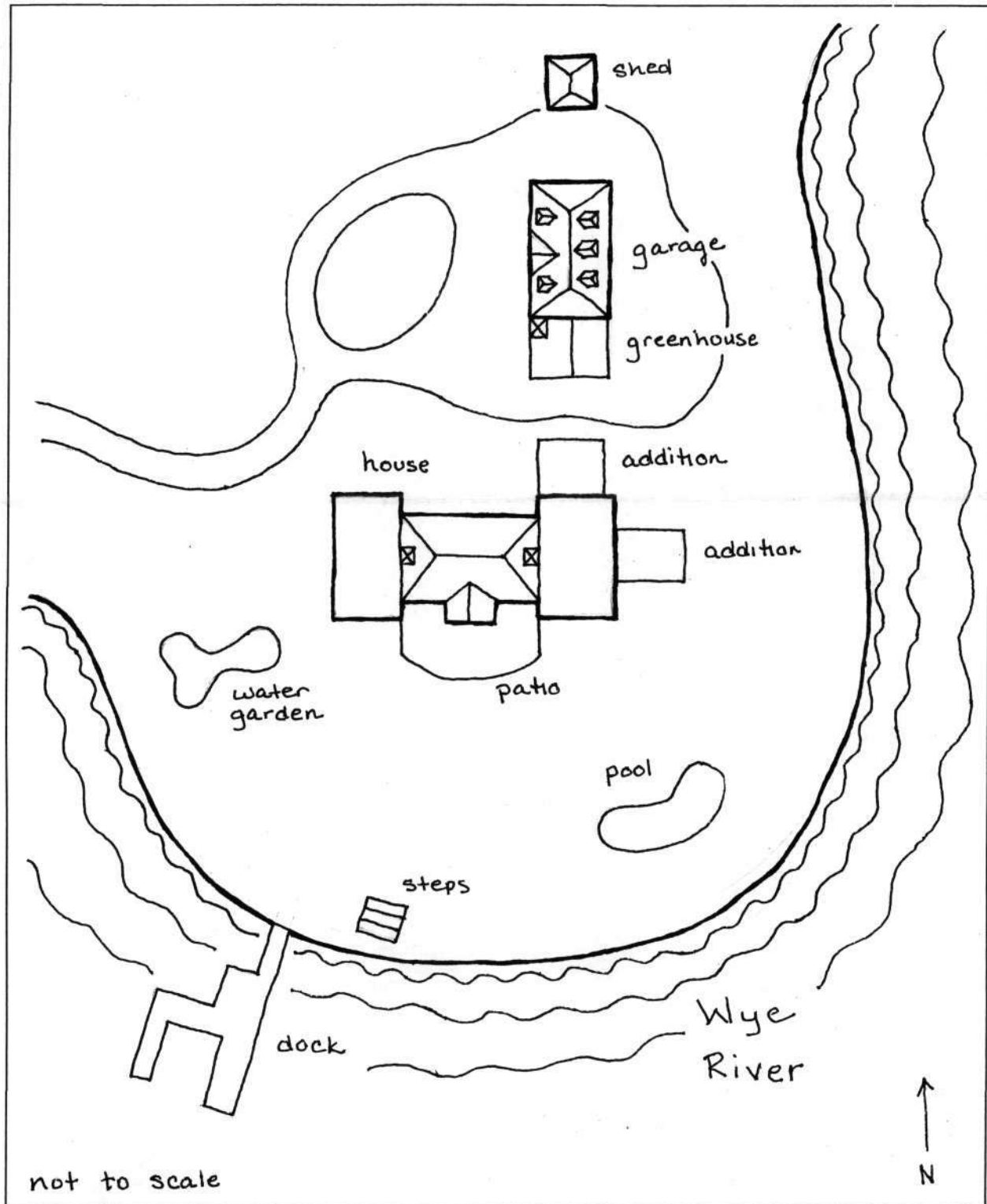
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Julie Darsie		
organization	Betty Bird & Associates	date	October 2005
street & number	2607 24 th Street NW, Suite 3	telephone	(202) 588-9033
city or town	Washington, District of Columbia	state	N/A

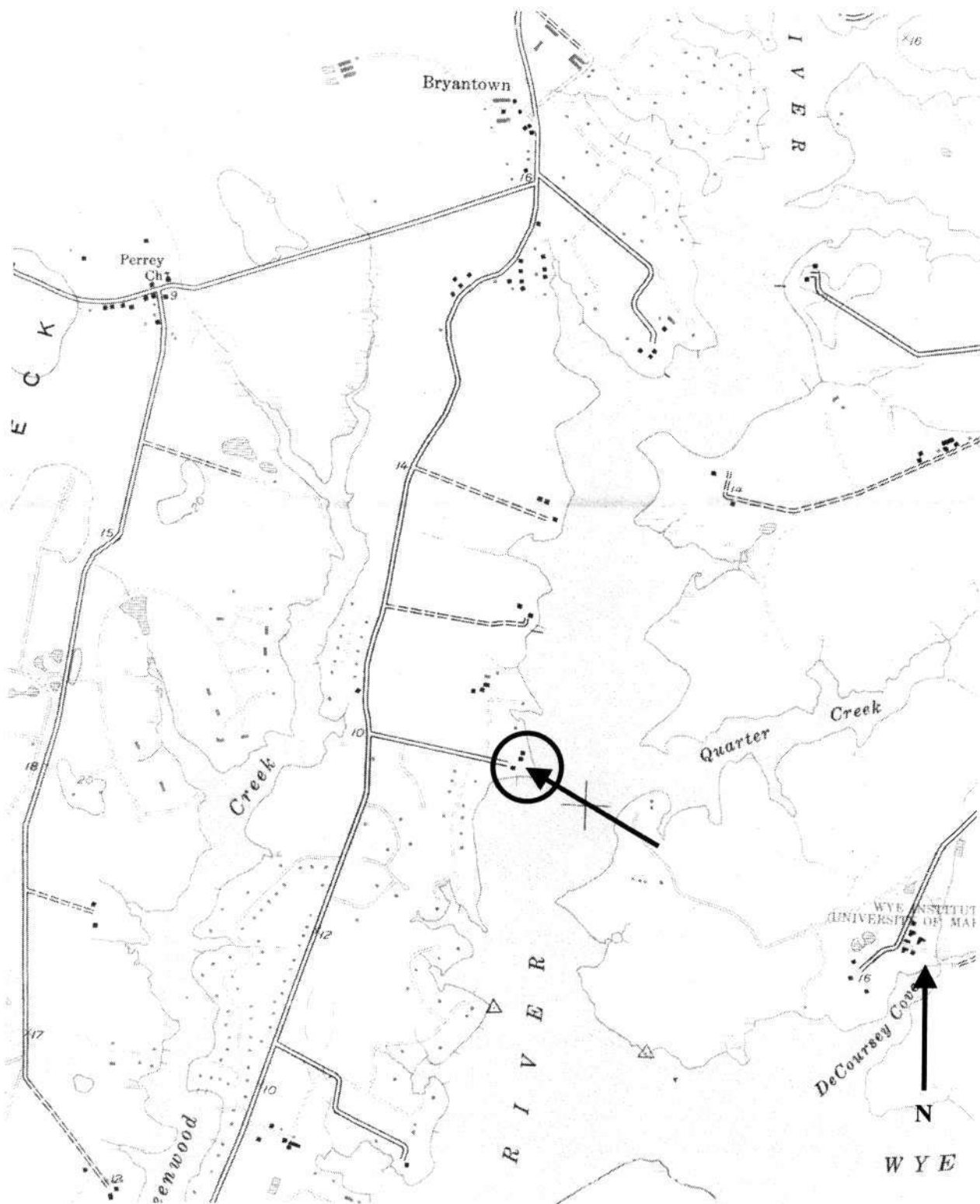
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



Site Plan
QA-562
Dr. George Loutrell Timanus House
Queenstown Vicinity, Queen Anne's County, Maryland



QA-562

Dr. George Loutrell Timanus House

Queenstown vicinity, Queen Anne's County

Queenstown, Maryland Quadrangle (1:24,000)



QA-562

Dr. George Loutrell Timanus House

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

9105

MD SHPO

South elevation of House

1 of 10



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Dr. George Leatrell Timanus House

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

9/05

MD SHPO

Southeast corner of house and sunroom addition

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QA-562

Dr. George Loutrell Tumanus House

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Daisie for Betty Bird & Associates

9/05

MD SHPO

Northeast corner of house showing frame addition

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QA-562

Dr. George Lautrell Timmons Home

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

9/05

MR SHPO

North elevation of house

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QA-562

Dr. George Lautrell Timanus House
Queen Anne's County, Maryland

For Parsie for Betty Bird & Associates

9105

MD SHPO

West elevation of house.

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QA-562

Dr. George Loutrick Timmons House
Queen Anns County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

9/05

MD SHPO

East elevation of garage.

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QA-562

Dr. George Lorentz Timanus House

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

9/05

MD SHPO

West elevation of garage

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QA.562

Dr. George Loutrrell Timanus House
Queen Annel's County, Maryland

Letter Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

9/05

MD SHPO

Shed, view from SE.

8 of 10.



QA-562

Dr. George Lautrell Timanus House
Queen Annel's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates
9/05

MO SHPO

Water garden, view from NE,
9 of 10



QA-562

Dr. George Loutrall Timanus House

Queen Annel's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

9105

MD SHPO

Steps, view from West

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